



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 9 December 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The Southeast Missourian reports that a man faces arraignment Tuesday after a series of burglaries and thefts Thanksgiving weekend that included a break-in at the Cape Girardeau Regional Airport in Missouri. (See item [12](#))
- According to McClatchy Newspapers, some visitors to the nation's parks and wildlife refuges will be allowed to carry loaded weapons beginning in January under a plan given final approval Friday by the U.S. Presidential Administration. (See item [34](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED,
Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 5, Houston Business Journal* – (National) **Site targets oilfield theft.** Two Houston organizations are teaming up to combat a growing epidemic of oilfield theft on a national level. The Association of Energy Services Companies (AES) and MergingDesign will soon go online with StopOilfieldTheft.com, the first national database to report, track, and help recover stolen tools, supplies, and other oilfield equipment. The Web site is expected to launch in early January with the help of the Energy Security Council and cooperation from various local and national law enforcement agencies. A key participant will be the FBI, which formed an oilfield theft task force in the Permian Basin area at the end of the summer. StopOilfieldTheft.com concentrates on reporting and tracking missing parts. Information on missing tools can

be posted on the Web site, including the serial or part number, and the identification of the officer or agent assigned to the case. “When there is a hit on the database, the officer or agent will get an e-mail or phone call,” says the creative director of MergingDesign. Attempts to fix stolen equipment can also be detected since a lot of AESC members are repair companies.

Source:

<http://houston.bizjournals.com/houston/stories/2008/12/08/story1.html?b=1228712400^1743201&page=1>

2. *December 5, Reuters* – (Arkansas) **Arkansas board allows AEP coal plant work to resume.** Construction can resume at an American Electric Power Co. utility’s coal-fired power plant in Arkansas while an air permit issued for it is under appeal, the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission ruled on Friday. Soon after the decision, construction resumed at the Southwestern Electric Power Co.’s (SWEPCO) 600-megawatt John W. Turk Jr. plant near Texarkana, Arkansas, a spokeswoman said. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality issued SWEPCO an air permit November 5 for the \$1.6 billion plant. Construction began, but was delayed when an appeal to that decision was filed December 1 by the Sierra Club, Audubon Arkansas, and nearby landowners. The commission voted seven - one to lift a stay order placed on construction and will in the coming months continue to review the appeal, said an attorney for the Sierra Club.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0548048920081205>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *December 8, Virginian-Pilot* – (Virginia) **Hundreds of tanks, one inspector.** More than 100 tanks, up to 200 million gallons of stored fuel, and one state inspector are the numbers behind tank farms that line Chesapeake’s riverfront, and officials worry that one day they might add up to another major spill like the one last month that gushed into the South Hill neighborhood. The city’s frontage on the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River has one of the highest concentrations of chemical and fuel storage terminals in Hampton Roads. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has one Hampton Roads staffer assigned to make sure those tanks are safe, as well as tanks at about 125 other facilities throughout Hampton Roads where flammable, combustible liquids are stored. The State has not visited some of the Chesapeake terminals in three years, and the facility where the tank holding liquid fertilizer collapsed has not had a visit from the DEQ since 2002. The sole DEQ official who inspects Chesapeake’s terminals — and others in the region — said major facilities should be visited by the State every year instead of the typical three to five years. Large above-ground storage tanks containing flammable, combustible liquids must be inspected under an American Petroleum Institute standard at least every 10 years, according to the current Virginia regulations. The State has no inspection requirements for above-ground tanks holding noncombustible materials — such as the liquid

fertilizer that spilled in November. “I think it’s time we look at regulating tanks storing other things besides petroleum,” said the DEQ official. Top fire department officials said more frequent site visits could be required if the city council approves a change in local code. That could be easier and quicker than changing State law.

Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2008/12/hundreds-tanks-one-inspector-its-ratio-some-question>

4. *December 7, Times Herald Record* – (New York) **Routes 17, 17M closed for chemical spill.** Route 17 and Route 17M are both closed due to a possible hydrochloric acid spill. State police say a truck traveling westbound on 17 at about 8 a.m. Sunday morning blew out a tire causing a fire under the vehicle. The vehicle then started leaking chemicals onto the road. Several police and fire agencies and the Department of Environmental Conservation responded. As of 11 a.m. Sunday, both directions of Route 17 were closed from exit 126 to 128. State police evacuated cars on the road. Officials were considering whether to evacuate homes.

Source:

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081207/NEWS/81207001>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *December 8, Reuters* – (Florida) **Exelon NJ Oyster Creek reactor back at full power.** Exelon Corp’s 619-megawatt Oyster Creek nuclear power station in New Jersey exited an outage and ramped up to full power by early Monday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The unit shut on November 28 when one of two main transformers failed and had to be replaced.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN0846043620081208>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *December 8, Air Force Times* – (National) **Wing cracks take out half of A-10 fleet.** As of early December, 168 attack jets — nearly half the service’s 356 Warthogs — remain grounded because of wing cracks. Those planes should be repaired by June, said an A-10 weapons system team chief at Air Combat Command headquarters. The grounding began October 3 after inspectors at Ogden Air Logistics Center in Utah, where A-10s are sent for major overhauls and upgrades, raised concerns about wing cracks. Additional inspections and concerns about planes not covered by the October 3 order pushed the total higher, reaching 191 jets in mid-November. Repairs and completed checks reduced the number of grounded jets to 168. While inspection teams open wings and patch cracks, A-10 pilots have seen their flying hours fall. Air Force officials estimate inspections and repairs will take about seven to 10 days per A-10 plane.

Source: http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/12/airforce_a10_repairs_120608/

Banking and Finance Sector

7. *December 8, New York Times* – (National) **Investors win \$141 million in suit against Bank of America.** A federal jury in Manhattan has found Bank of America liable in a securities fraud trial that centered on the sales of asset-backed securities and involved some of the biggest names on Wall Street. In a verdict delivered late Thursday after nearly six weeks of trial, the jury ordered Bank of America to pay more than \$141 million to a dozen institutional plaintiffs, including the American International Group, Allstate, Societe Generale, Travelers, Bank Leumi, Bayerische Landesbank, and the International Finance Corporation. The money includes interest that Bank of America, the nation's largest bank, is obligated by law to pay on the \$101 million award, which did not include punitive damages, according to court papers. The civil trial was closely watched because it was unusual for disputes between financial institutions over the sale of securities to be brought to court as opposed to being settled behind closed doors.
Source: <http://dealbook.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/12/08/investors-win-141-million-in-suit-against-bank-of-america/>
8. *December 6, PCWorld* – (International) **Holiday flyers warned of e-mail spam.** Hackers are using hoax e-mails that appear to come from airlines as a way to spread malicious Trojans, according to Sophos. The security firm said e-mails disguised as messages from well-known carriers such as Virgin Atlantic and Delta have been received by Web users worldwide. The e-mail claims the recipient has registered an account with the airline and that their credit card has been charged. Also attached to the e-mail is a Zip file called 'purchase invoice and your airline ticket.' Sophos is warning web users not to open this attachment as it contains a Trojan horse designed to steal information or allow hackers to secretly access the victim's computer.
Source:
http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/155080/holiday_flyers_warned_of_email_scam.html
9. *December 6, Washington Post* – (National) **Digging deeper into the CheckFree attack.** The hijacking of the nation's largest e-bill payment system last week offers a glimpse of an attack that experts say is likely to become more common in 2009. Atlanta based CheckFree acknowledged Wednesday that hackers had, for several hours, redirected visitors to its customer login page to a Web site in Ukraine that tried to install password-stealing software. While the attack garnered few headlines, there are clues that suggest it may have affected a large number of people. CheckFree claims that more than 24 million people use its services. A fraud analyst with Gartner Inc. said CheckFree controls between 70 to 80 percent of the U.S. online bill pay market. A spokeswoman for Network Solutions, the Herndon, Virginia, domain registrar that CheckFree used to register its Web site name, told Security Fix Wednesday that someone had used the correct credentials needed to access and make changes to CheckFree's Web site records. Network Solutions stressed that the credentials were not stolen as a result of a breach of their system, suggesting that the user name and

password needed to make changes to CheckFree's Web site could have been stolen either after a CheckFree employee's computer was infected with password-stealing malware, or an employee may have been tricked into giving those credentials away through a phishing scam. Interestingly, CheckFree.com was not the only site that the attackers hijacked and redirected back to the Ukrainian server. Tacoma, Washington-based anti-phishing company Internet Identity found at least 71 other domains pointing to the same Ukrainian address during that same time period. Of those, 69 were registered at either eNom or Network Solutions, and all appeared to be legitimate domains that had been hijacked.

Source:

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/securityfix/2008/12/digging_deeper_into_the_checkf.html?nav=rss_blog

10. *December 6, WHIO 7 Dayton* – (Ohio) **Darke Co. sheriff's office warns of alleged scam.** The Darke County sheriff's office issued a warning on Saturday about a scam that targets account holders at Greenville Federal Bank. Authorities at the sheriff's office said they have received numerous complaints about suspicious activity involving accounts at the bank. They said victims received information that their accounts had been compromised and they needed to enter personal information via a telephone. Authorities said there have been at least two victims in Darke County.
Source: <http://www.whiotv.com/news/18219471/detail.html>

11. *December 5, WIRED* – (International) **Three charged with international bank Trojan scheme.** Two U.S. men and a Russian face conspiracy and bank fraud charges for allegedly running a successful scheme to compromise and rob online banking and brokerage accounts. In a 15-month-long caper that ended in December of last year, prosecutors say a defendant from Volgograd worked with others in Russia to infect U.S. consumers with Trojan horses that let the gang swipe the victims' login credentials. This defendant then initiated wire transfers from the hacked bank accounts — and liquidated stocks from compromised brokerage accounts — and channeled the money to "drop" accounts in the U.S., according to federal indictments filed two weeks ago in Manhattan. Opening the drop accounts and pulling out the cash was allegedly the job of a defendant from Manhattan, and another from Hampton, New Hampshire, who got to keep a portion of the loot for their efforts, according to the government. The three are charged with conspiracy, and the defendant from Volgograd faces two additional count of access device fraud for allegedly giving the informant 150 stolen credit card numbers last year to get them programmed onto counterfeit cards.
Source: <http://blog.wired.com/27bstroke6/2008/12/fed-blotter-ame.html>

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Transportation Sector

12. *December 6, Southeast Missourian* – (Missouri) **Police: Man broke into Cape hangar, pretended to be pilot, night watchman.** A Dexter, Missouri, man faces arraignment Tuesday in Scott County after a series of burglaries and thefts Thanksgiving weekend that included time spent pretending to fly a plane at the Cape

Girardeau Regional Airport.

According to a Cape Girardeau police report, the man spent most of the night of November 28 in and around two hangars at the airport before stealing a sport utility vehicle from NAB Automation Inc. He later told police that he had gone to the airport after a fight with his girlfriend the day before. The report said the man hoped to fly to St. Louis to see his mother. According to the police report, he had entered several planes and in at least one, he had turned on the lights and pretended to be a pilot. He told police he had not “flown a plane before but had flown in a flight simulator.” At another point, he walked the airport grounds with a flashlight and carried a stolen 12-gauge shotgun, “pretending that he was a night watchman.” The chairman of the Cape Girardeau Regional Airport Advisory board said since the break-in, which he said is the first in his 25-year association with the airport, security measures have been increased and more are planned. He said the man was never able to gain access to crucial airport buildings, such as the control tower. He said the airport board has recently talked about improving security and will now consider tighter measures.

Source: <http://www.semissourian.com/article/20081206/NEWS01/712059965>

13. *December 5, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Surviving Metrolink crewman says track-side warning light was green.** The only surviving crewman aboard a Metrolink train that slammed into a freight train in Chatsworth in September has told investigators that a track-side warning light just south of the crash site was green, his attorneys said Thursday. The conductor told investigators that he saw the green signal from the depot just before the train pulled out of the station. The conductor’s account matches statements from three observers who say they saw that the light was green as the train left the Chatsworth station. But the conductor and the others contradict statements from Metrolink and the preliminary findings of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which has said the commuter train ran a red light just before colliding with the Union Pacific train. In an interview December 4, the acting chairman of the NSTB said the agency stands by its earlier findings that the signal system was working properly at the time of the head-on collision.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-metrolink5-2008dec05,0,3449298.story>

14. *December 6, Coast Guard News* – (Louisiana) **One killed, one hurt after workboat collides with barge.** One person is dead and another injured after a workboat collided with a barge in a canal off the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway near Larose, Louisiana, Coast Guard officials confirm. The incident occurred around 3 a.m. when the boat, described as a small crewboat named “Washington” struck a barge believed to have been stationary, according to preliminary information gathered by the Coast Guard.

Source: <http://coastguardnews.com/one-killed-one-hurt-after-workboat-collides-with-barge/2008/12/06/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *December 6, Charlotte Sun Herald* – (Florida) **Three decontaminated after exposure**

to hazardous substance. A powder delivered in an envelope to an El Jobean community Friday tested positive by Charlotte County Fire and EMS for hazardous materials. A hazmat team was dispatched to the clubhouse at Riverwood after a call came in at 12:40 p.m. to report the suspicious substance. “We did have a positive result for a hazardous material,” a fire and EMS spokeswoman said. “We don’t know what it is, but it’s tested positive and that’s cause for concern.” The substance has been sent to the Florida Department of Health in Tampa where it will undergo testing to determine its makeup. Three people were exposed to the powder and were decontaminated. None of them demonstrated any ill effects after their exposure, and they were released.

Source:

<http://www.sunnewspapers.net/articles/pnnews.aspx?NewsID=427769&a=newsarchive/2/120608/ch1.htm&pnpng=0>

16. *December 6, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **2 threatening letters sent to judges.** Two Harford County Circuit Court judges received letters Friday threatening the U.S. President and containing a white powdery substance, the Harford County sheriff’s office said. The powder appears to be sugar, according to preliminary tests, according to a spokesman for the sheriff’s office. After one letter was opened by one judge’s secretary about 12:30 p.m., sheriff’s investigators and the county hazmat team responded to the courthouse. Another letter, sent to a second judge, was also discovered. Sources said the letters appeared to have been sent by one inmate at the Maryland Correctional Institution in Hagerstown. No one has been charged in this incident, police said.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/harford/bal-md.ha.anthrax06dec06,0,5995125.story>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *December 8, WIS 10 Columbia* – (South Carolina) **Hwy. 378 temporarily closed down due to bomb threat at chicken plant.** Authorities shut down part of Highway 378 in West Columbia on Sunday afternoon after a bomb threat was made to a chicken processing plant there. The highway has since been re-opened. West Columbia police tell WIS News 10 the call was made from a convenience store near the Columbia Farms chicken plant. Workers were evacuated, and Highway 378 around the area of the farm was shut down by West Columbia police. No one was hurt. The Lexington County Sheriff’s Department bomb squad was called, and investigated the area. Police say they did not find anything in the plant. As of Monday morning, the plant is up and running again.

Source: <http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9473671&nav=0RaP>

18. *December 8, Moscow Times* – (International) **U.S. pork blocked for failing to meet import regulations.** Russia has halted pork shipments from six U.S. sources, including a Smithfield Foods meat-processing plant, saying their products failed to comply with import requirements, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Russia, the fourth-largest buyer of U.S. pork, will not accept shipments from the plants after

December 15, the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service said in a December 2 statement. The suspensions follow visits by Russian government officials in October as part of an annual audit, said an FSIS spokeswoman. "They gave us a letter stating that these plants did not comply with Russian requirements," the spokeswoman said in a telephone interview from Washington. "They have not provided any additional information." Russia has halted or plans to stop pork shipments from 10 U.S. processing plants and slaughterhouses this year. The other meat-processing plants affected by the recent suspension are run by the Chicago Meat Authority and Amity Packing in Chicago, Farmington Foods in Forest Park, Illinois, and Abilene TX Foods in Jeffersontown, Kentucky. The suspended slaughterhouse was identified as Sioux-Preme Pork Products in Sioux City, Iowa.

Source: <http://www.moscowtimes.ru/article/1009/42/372959.htm>

19. *December 8, USAgNet* – (North Dakota) **North Dakota animal tests positive for TB.**

A North Dakota beef herd is being tested for bovine tuberculosis, following the identification of a cow with a TB lesion at a Minnesota meat processing plant. A State veterinarian said that a suspect lesion on the animal was detected through routine inspection at a processing plant in Long Prairie, Minnesota, and that pathological tests at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, confirmed the diagnosis of bovine TB. A traceback determined that the animal came from a livestock operation in southwestern North Dakota. North Dakota has been officially TB-free since January 1, 1976. Under federal guidelines, that status remains in effect. "We are in the early stages of the investigation, and complete results of the herd tests will not be known for several weeks," said the State veterinarian on Friday.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2852&yr=2008>

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Water Sector

20. *December 8, News-Sentinel* – (Indiana) **Boil-water advisory likely will be lifted this afternoon.** A boil advisory affecting between 3,000 and 3,500 Aqua Indiana customers north of Covington Road and south of South Bass Road was expected to be lifted Monday afternoon. A company spokesman said the advisory came after about 200 customers complained early Sunday morning of discolored water or no water. The problem was due to a lack of pressure caused late Saturday night or early Sunday morning by the failure of a computer that controls the Chestnut Hill water plant's nine wells.

Source: <http://www.news-sentinel.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081208/NEWS/812080319>

21. *December 7, Helena Independent Record* – (Montana) **Chromium dumping stopped; guilty party yet unknown.** Whoever was illegally dumping hexavalent chromium into Helena's sewers has apparently stopped. City officials said Friday they have not detected any more of the toxic chemical entering the Custer Avenue wastewater treatment plant in the past two weeks. The facility's nitrogen-eating bacteria have rebounded, and the plant is now discharging safe levels of ammonia into Prickly Pear

Creek. The chemical began entering the plant on or about October 21. The contamination continued about twice a week until late last month, when officials went public with the issue. The known carcinogen was killing the plant's nitrogen-fixing bacteria, causing the plant to discharge between 20 parts per million (ppm) and 30 ppm of ammonia — more than five times the permitted amount — into the ditch that leads to the creek and, eventually, the Missouri River. The plant is only permitted to discharge ammonia in smaller amounts, which change from month to month, because the compound promotes algae growth downstream. The facility is now discharging about 0.9 ppm of ammonia, according to the wastewater superintendent. He said he still hopes the perpetrator is caught — Helena police are still investigating the issue — but he is relieved the problem has abated. The contamination, he stressed, was never a hazard to the public or downstream. But the incidents caused the plant to temporarily go out of compliance with the environmental regulations set and enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. The problem cost more than \$20,000 to fix, city officials estimated. Before officials discovered what was coming into the plant, they paid three consultants to investigate, and they also incurred fuel costs by transporting new sludge to the plant from other Montana facilities in an effort to replace the dead bacteria. Officials had initially expected the plant to take several months to rid itself of the chemical and re-grow its bacteria, but a 2-ton dose of magnesium hydroxide neutralized the chromium's toxicity.

Source: http://www.helenair.com/articles/2008/12/07/top/70lo_081207_chromium.txt

22. *December 6, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia; Virginia) **Potomac River tap water has small levels of contaminants.** Tap water in the District and parts of Northern Virginia contains small amounts of herbicides, gasoline additives, and industrial solvents — although the concentrations are so small that there is probably no risk to consumers, according to a new federal study. The U.S. Geological Survey measured water from the Washington Aqueduct, a federal agency that treats Potomac River water and sends it to the District, Arlington County, and Falls Church. It found 17 chemical compounds that had escaped the treatment process, but in minuscule amounts, such as .258 parts per billion. At those levels, “adverse effects to human health are expected to be negligible,” the study says.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/12/06/ST2008120600012.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *December 7, Topeka Capital Journal* – (Kansas) **Police say threat unsubstantiated.** A bomb threat made the afternoon of December 6 to the Kansas Rehabilitation Hospital was unsubstantiated, police said. Topeka police responded around 5:30 p.m. after the hospital received a call mentioning an explosive device. Police and K-9 units searched the building and determined there was no threat. The building was not evacuated. The incident is under investigation.

Source: http://cjonline.com/stories/120708/loc_364611849.shtml

24. *December 7, North Andover Eagle-Tribune* – (Massachusetts; New Hampshire) **MRSA cases on the rise in NH.** MRSA is attacking otherwise healthy people and is now widespread in New Hampshire communities, medical professionals say. “MRSA used to be something you would just see in a hospital or a health care setting,” said the director of infection control at Elliot Hospital in Manchester. But a different strain of the MRSA staph infection, with which a Londonderry student athlete was recently diagnosed, is spreading through schools, health clubs, and other community settings in Southern New Hampshire and the Merrimack Valley. Officials at local hospitals say they are seeing a lot of new cases. “I hate to use the word epidemic,” said the director of education and infection prevention coordinator at Merrimack Valley Hospital in Haverhill, Massachusetts. “But we are seeing an increase in patients, and it is a large increase.”

Source:

http://www.eagletribune.com/punewsnh/local_story_342010950.html?keyword=secondarystory

25. *December 6, Provo Daily Herald* – (Utah) **Bomb threat forces evacuation of county health building.** Substance abuse patients were evacuated from the Utah County Health and Justice building Friday morning after a bomb threat. A Provo police sergeant said police received a call just after 9 a.m. from a person at the Allen’s supermarket in Provo. The man told police they had one hour to respond to the health building before it would explode. The sergeant said Provo police and the Utah County Sheriff’s Office brought bomb-sniffing dogs to the building while security personnel on scene checked common areas for anything suspicious. An hour went by and officers found nothing at the building. The sergeant said there were no witnesses or video camera footage of the suspect at the supermarket and police have few leads from that location.

Source: <http://www.heraldextra.com/content/view/291259/>

26. *December 5, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Legionnaires’ disease bacteria found at UTMB.** Patients at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston are not believed to be at great risk after the bacteria that causes Legionnaires’ disease was discovered in the water system, officials said Friday. “We think the risk is phenomenally low. But we are being proactive in patient safety,” said the director of health care epidemiology at UTMB, which is still reopening after being heavily damaged by Hurricane Ike. “This is not going to stop us from accepting patients.” UTMB is still in the middle of testing water samples to determine the level of contamination. The hospital has also hired a consulting firm to perform additional testing. Legionnaire’s, a form of pneumonia, is caused by bacteria that occurs naturally in water. The bacteria probably formed in water that remained stagnant for weeks in hospital pipes after the hurricane, she said. The bacteria is not believed to have spread beyond the hospital and there have been no reports of human infections. The director said the only patients at risk for getting the disease are ones with compromised immune systems. The only way a patient could get the disease is if he or she would inhale fine water particles into their lungs, she said. People not at risk to the disease can still wash

their hands, drink the water, or bathe in it.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6149475.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

27. *December 5, U.S. Department of Homeland Security* – (Kansas) **DHS issues final environmental impact statement on proposed national bio and agro-defense facility.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate released the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) Friday, recommending Manhattan, Kansas, as the preferred site for the state-of-the-art, high-security laboratory facility to study foreign animal and zoonotic (transferable from animal to human) diseases that can impact livestock. A formal Record of Decision, which will officially designate a site on which to build the NBAF, will be published on January 12, 2009. Facility design will begin in 2009 with plans for construction to begin in 2010. It is expected that the NBAF would be operational by 2015. The NBAF will be designed to replace the current facilities at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in New York.
Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1228505447202.shtm

28. *December 5, Redding Record Searchlight* – (California) **Man arrested at Shasta College following gun threat.** Redding police arrested a man who reportedly walked into the Shasta College bookstore and told those inside that he had a gun and had made several bombs, officers said. He was charged with making terrorist threats, attempted robbery, possessing ammunition on a school campus, and resisting arrest. The bookstore remained closed while officers searched for explosives inside. The rest of the building was lifted from lock down status around an hour after the incident was first reported, police said. The 911 call made at around 10:15 a.m. drew a rapid response from local law enforcement, and a SWAT team was sent to the campus, according to preliminary dispatch reports. The man was arrested by police after leaving the store.
Source: <http://www.redding.com/news/2008/dec/05/man-arrested-shasta-college-following-gun-threat/>

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *December 7, Worcester Telegram and Gazette* – (Massachusetts) **Emergency services law ignored.** 44 cities and towns in central Massachusetts have yet to produce state-approved plans for providing emergency medical services, a requirement that has been on the books for nearly two years. A 2000 state law, dubbed "EMS 2000," that was intended to improve the quality of emergency medical care in Massachusetts directed municipalities to draft ambulance "service zone plans" and have them approved by the state no later than December 31, 2006. Less than 40 percent of the cities and towns in the region had done so as of last month, according to a Telegram and Gazette analysis of a state report. Meanwhile, the State agency charged with approving and overseeing

the service zone plans says it is powerless to do anything about the continued widespread failure to comply with the law throughout Massachusetts.

Source: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20081207/NEWS/812070400/1116>

30. *December 5, Duluth News Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Minnesota agencies look for glitches in response.** About 320 people from 35 federal, state, local, and provincial agencies took part in what was billed as Minnesota's largest-ever emergency response drill last Wednesday. The effort involved experts from the Army to the Weather Service, including the FBI, Coast Guard, Homeland Security, all manner of firefighting agencies and even the State's top cops in analyzing criminal threats. The goal is to have agency response teams ready to respond not just to fires, but also to other threats when needed. That already happens, with Minnesota wildfire crews responding in recent years to floods, hurricanes, and even debris searches from the space shuttle disaster. The drill mainly used computer simulation, although with some large screens showing video of past disasters thrown in for added realism. Agency leaders worked in rooms next to their staff, trying to decide how to order teams to respond. Helicopters might be in short supply—needed, for example to evacuate sick people from Grand Portage, to rescue people off roofs in Southeastern Minnesota floods or to drop water on forest fires to save summer homes simultaneously. Officers in a threat analysis division of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, called the Minnesota Joint Analysis Center, were investigating whether the forest fires might be related, and sparked by arsonists, and whether the rock slide was caused by terrorists rumored to be waging some sort of biological warfare. Minnesota's director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management said Thursday's evaluation session will show if things went well or, if not, whether it was a policy problem, procedural problem, or human error that caused the glitch. The answer could lead to changes in agency communications policies or spur changes in State law or even international treaties or border laws to allow agencies to work better together.

Source:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=61862§ionId=46>

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Information Technology

31. *December 8, Marshal8e6* – (International) **Mega-D Botnet returns after McColo shutdown.** One of three major botnets shut down as a result of the closure of major spam hosting provider, McColo, has been re-established and is back spamming in large volumes, say experts from the Marshal8e6 TRACELabs. The Mega-D botnet, famous for sending billions of spam emails promoting sexual performance remedies, along with the Srizbi and Rustock botnets was effectively turned off due to the closure of McColo. The botnet's thousands of infected zombie computers could no longer communicate with the Mega-D command and control servers and ceased spamming. However, Mega-D's creators have worked constantly over the past three weeks to set up new command and control servers and re-establish connections with their network of compromised bots. According to the TRACELabs spam statistics, the spammers have managed to restore those connections and Mega-D is now back spamming again.

Marshal8e6 maintains a Spam Volume Index on its website, tracking the total volume of spam it receives. This index is used to measure fluctuations in global spam volume over time. According to Marshal8e6, the volume of spam has doubled since the low point immediately following the McColo shutdown.

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.com/prnews/20081208/ca-mega-d-bot-returns.htm>

32. *December 6, IDG News Service* – (International) **FBI: Criminals auto-dialing with hacked VoIP systems.** Criminals are taking advantage of a bug in the Asterisk Internet telephony system that lets them pump out thousands of scam phone calls in an hour, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) warned December 5. The FBI did not say which versions of Asterisk were vulnerable to the bug, but it advised users to upgrade to the latest version of the software. Asterisk is an open-source product that lets users turn a Linux computer into a VoIP telephone exchange. In so-called vishing attacks, scammers usually use a VoIP system to set up a phony call center and then use phishing e-mails to trick victims into calling the center. Once there, they are prompted to give private information. But in the scam described by the FBI, they apparently are taking over legitimate Asterisk systems in order to directly dial victims. “Early versions of the Asterisk software are known to have vulnerability,” the FBI said in an advisory posted Friday to the Internet Crime Complaint Center. “The vulnerability can be exploited by cyber criminals to use the system as an auto dialer, generating thousands of vishing telephone calls to consumers within one hour.”

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2008/120608-fbi-criminals-auto-dialing-with-hacked.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

33. *December 8, Topeka Capital Journal* – (Kansas) **Apartment receives bomb threat.**

Fire and police crews were investigating a bomb threat late Sunday night at a high-rise apartment complex in central Topeka. The bomb threat was reported around 8:45 p.m. when authorities received a 911 call that an explosive device was set to go off at 9 p.m. at the Polk Plaza apartments, the police captain said at the scene. He said that a person of interest had been taken into custody. By 9:45 p.m. Sunday, police were continuing to

block off a perimeter around the nine-story apartment building. Several Topeka Fire Department trucks were in the immediate area. Topeka police canine units were searching an area outside the building late Sunday. No evacuations from the building had taken place by 9:45 p.m. The incident remained under investigation.

Source: http://cjonline.com/stories/120808/loc_364955737.shtml

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

34. *December 5, McClatchy Newspapers* – (National) **Feds OK rule allowing loaded weapons in national parks.** Some visitors to the nation's parks and wildlife refuges will be allowed to carry loaded weapons beginning in January under a plan given final approval Friday by the U.S. Presidential Administration. The Interior Department decided to scrap its longtime ban on loaded weapons. Individuals will be allowed to carry loaded, concealed weapons in parks or wildlife refuges if they have state permits to carry concealed weapons in the state in which the national park or refuge is located. Under current regulations, firearms in the national parks must be unloaded and inoperable. That means they must have trigger locks or be stored in a car trunk or in a special case. The Interior Department suggested changing the regulation after 51 Senators signed a letter requesting it.

Source: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/251/story/57213.html>

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Dams Sector

35. *December 7, Indy Star* – (Indiana) **Rocky Ripple residents fear levee 'soup bowl.'** Rocky Ripple residents fear they may be in a "soup bowl" when the next flood comes. Designs are under way on the final phase of a \$30 million levee reconstruction project. The town council in 1996 voted to stay out of the project, and some town leaders are worried that flooding in the riverside community of 700 will increase even as it abates elsewhere along White River. "The levee will be built all around us and leave us in a soup bowl," said the council president. The town's 700 residents are protected by an earthen levee — built 71 years ago — that bends but has not broken. The Army Corps of Engineers is building the new levee in three sections from Broad Ripple to Butler University. The city is paying 25 percent of the cost, and the Federal Government the rest. An Army Corps spokeswoman said the levee would protect about 2,400 homes from White River. City officials said those residents would no longer need to purchase flood insurance if the Federal Emergency Management Agency determines afterward that the neighborhood is no longer in a flood plain.

Source: <http://www.indystar.com/article/20081207/LOCAL1802/812070405>

36. *December 6, Houma Today* – (Louisiana) **Levee won't be raised before next storm season.** An unfinished section of a levee that overtopped severely during Hurricane Ike and caused flooding problems will not be completed in time for the beginning of next hurricane season, officials say. Chauvin residents who have waited years for flood

protection and unsuccessfully fought back floodwaters during Ike say that waiting through yet another hurricane season with unfinished protection is disappointing. The section of levee from Central Heights to St. Louis Canal will likely remain at 7 feet or under until September or later. When finished it will be 10 feet tall. The speed of construction will depend on a sewer line that must be relocated before the levee can be worked on, said the Terrebonne Public Works director. However, parish officials are preparing for that deficiency. He said the parish plans to secure either Hesco baskets or inflatable tube levees to protect upper Chauvin in case of a threatening storm. In addition, contractors working on a \$1.5 million emergency project to raise the 3,600-foot stretch between Bayou Neuf and Central Heights, where most of the water spilled over during Ike, will also be drafted to fill in low spots in other areas. A councilman said those emergency repairs will be completed May 1.

Source:

http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20081206/ARTICLES/812069944?Title=Levee_won_t_be_raised_before_next_storm_season

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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